

HOW TO PREVENT AND CONTROL FLIES

Common backyard sources of flies can include any accumulation of moist organic matter. These sources must be properly managed to prevent fly breeding.

Garbage cans	Keep cans fly-tight with tight fitting lids and free of holes. Seal wet garbage in plastic bags. Subscribe to twice per week garbage collection if available.
Compost piles	Properly manage to keep temperatures high.
Lawn clippings	Turn piles of lawn clippings frequently, spread thinly to dry or remove weekly and properly dispose of.
Animal manures	Remove manure from rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, and horses weekly. Store in fly-tight containers until disposed of.
Dog droppings	Pick up dog droppings daily and keep in fly-tight container until disposed of. Dispose of accumulated dog droppings weekly.
Fallen fruits or rotting vegetables	Pick up fallen fruit daily. Store inedible fruits or rotten vegetables in fly-tight containers until disposed of.

ELIMINATE FLY ATTRACTANTS

If you have none of these possible sources of flies but still have a fly problem, something in your yard or house may be attracting flies. Flies are attracted to sweet or sour smelling wastes in order to feed or lay eggs. Eliminate fly attractants such as garbage, dirty garbage cans, rotted lawn clippings, dog droppings, animal wastes and fallen fruit.



CONTROL OF ADULT FLIES

Insecticides should be considered as a supplement to environmental sanitation and not as a primary method of fly control. The success of your fly control efforts should be measured by an absence of live flies rather than by the number of adult flies you have killed.

EXCLUDE FLIES FROM BUILDINGS

Exclusion of flies will relieve a particular fly nuisance, but the source of the fly problem should also be addressed. Screens with 16 wire strands in each direction (16 mesh) are recommended for exclusion of flies such as house flies and blow flies. In order to exclude smaller flies such as fruit flies, 24 mesh screens should be used.

- * Keep screens in good repair.
- * Install self-closing doors.
- * Install high velocity fans over service entrances that must remain open.



Flies from open garbage dumps, fruit or vegetable waste disposal sites, manure stock piles, chicken ranches, cattle feed lots, or dairies may be effectively controlled through proper management practices. Fly problems involving such sources can usually be resolved through cooperative action by public health and agricultural agencies, industries, local residents and farmers.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If you have checked thoroughly and are sure you do not have flies breeding in your own backyard and nothing in your yard is attracting flies, but you are still bothered by large numbers of adult flies, call San Diego County Vector Control, department of Environmental Health at (858) 694-2888.

If you have concerns about fly breeding from an agricultural activity with large amounts of organic wastes that may produce or attract flies, call San Diego County Vector Surveillance and Control Division. Call (858) 694-2888 or (760) 940-2807 in the North County.